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COMMISSIONERS REVISE CHARTER

Revision of Charter Has Taken Months of Work by Well Known Men.

VOTE COMES IN NOVEMBER

Citizens of Alma Will Have Opportunity to Accept or Reject Work of Commission.

Alma's charter commission elected at the annual spring election, at the same time that Alma voted by an overwhelming vote to change the form of city government, and put it on a sound business basis, has finished its work and Saturday morning at ten o'clock filed with Carl E. Gallagher, city clerk, the revised charter, which is to be submitted later to the voters of the city for their approval.

The work of the charter commission has been an extensive one, as it has gone thoroughly into numerous charters seeking to obtain their good points, so that they might be incorporated in the new charter for Alma. It has also had a problem in weeding out the portions of the present city charter that were to be retained and made a portion of the new charter under which the commission form of government will be carried on in Alma. The result of this labor represents one hundred and thirty-three pages, legal size, of typewritten matter.

The charter consists of thirty-nine chapters, dealing with the various phases of city government and the way that it is to be conducted. The first chapter gives the general powers of the city. The second chapter gives the boundaries of the city and wards. The third chapter deals with the elective officers, and the fourth chapter with the appointive officials. The fifth chapter deals with the oath of office, the qualifications of the officers and the official bonds. Chapter six takes up the salaries of the officers and employees. Chapter seven deals with the vacancies in office and the removal of appointive officials. Chapter eight sets forth the Methods of Procedure of the city commission.

Electors, registration, primary elections and elections are taken up in the following three chapters, and then the initiative, referendum and recall are taken up. Chapter thirteen deals with the powers and duties of the officers of the city and is followed by a chapter on the powers of the city corporation.

Finance and taxation are dealt with at considerable length and come under chapter fifteen. Chapter sixteen gives the assessment and collection of taxes, and chapter seventeen takes up special assessment for general and local improvement. Chapter eighteen deals with the appropriation of private property.

The nineteenth chapter of the revised charter takes up the matter of cemeteries.

Chapter twenty deals with ordinances and will keep in force any ordinances of the city, not inconsistent with the charter if adopted by the voters. It also provides for the introducing and passing such ordinances by the commission. Chapter twenty-one takes up the enforcement of the ordinances of the city.

The balance of the thirty-nine chapters of the revised charter are taken up by such matters as policing, health, pounds, markets, public buildings, grounds and parks, sewers, drains and water courses, street regulations, construction of sidewalks, waterworks, lighting, fire department, granting of franchises, establishment of a public library, recording of plats, and amendment and revision of the city charter, and the schedule under which the charter is to be submitted and put in force if approved by the voters.

This last chapter provides that the charter shall be submitted for the approval or rejection of the voters at the general election to be held November 5, 1918.

If it meets with the approval of the voters, then on the first day of February, 1919, it shall become in force for the purpose of registration of electors, the first primary elections and first municipal election, for the introduction into office of the supervisors elect, and the making of the first assessment of property for purposes of taxation and the first assessment rolls. It shall become in full force on the second Monday in May, 1919, if adopted.

Many of the essential propositions contained in the present charter of the city of Alma are retained in the new charter, which the voters are to pass upon. Other portions have been altered greatly, to make them more workable, while others have been changed so that some things possible in the past will be possible under the new charter, if adopted.

The charter provides for a mayor to be elected for a term of two years and for four commissioners to be elected at large for a term of four years, except that two of the commissioners to be first elected shall be

(Continued on Page Eight.)

GOOD ATTENDANCE

President Crooks Looks For Large Number at College This Year.

In an interview the latter part of last week President H. M. Crooks of Alma college expressed himself as believing that indications pointed to a good attendance at the Presbyterian institution this year.

He gave out that the upper classes had suffered greatly from the war, because of so many young men having enlisted or been drafted in the service.

He made the statement that the freshman class was expected to be a big one this year, and this with remarks dropped by the field agents from time to time during the past six weeks, leads to the belief that the freshman class this year may be the biggest in the history of the college, despite the war.

A large number of young men, who are prospective students are known to be unsettled at the present time as to whether or not they will attend college this year, because of the unsettled conditions as to the new draft law.

The greater part of the students this coming year without a question will be girls, but it is expected that about a third of those who attend Alma college will be young men, some of whom are being rated very highly in state athletic circles, according to reports.

—BUY W.S.S.—

GRATIOT COUNTY CLUB HAS ELECTED OFFICERS

Board of Governors of New Organization Selected Officers at Meeting Friday.

At a meeting of the board of governors of the Gratiot County club held Friday afternoon in the offices of C. G. Rhodes at the Republic plant, the officers for the newly organized country club were elected, and it was also decided to lease the second floor of the Merchants' block if possible to be used for a club room.

The board of governors of the club, who were elected at a meeting held two weeks ago at the factory, chose the officers with care. The officers elected were: President, H. M. Crooks of Alma college; vice presidents, W. G. West and L. Markle of St. Louis; treasurer, W. G. Rath of Alma; secretary, C. S. Darrah of Alma.

Following the election of the officers it was decided to secure the second floor of the Merchants' building on State street for a club room, leasing the room if possible. The room is 84 by 90 feet and will furnish plenty of available space for a club room. Plans have been submitted for the improvement of the room, and for fitting it up and getting it into condition for the use of the club. The plans submitted were approved by the board of governors.

Those who attended the meeting of the board of governors were C. G. Rhodes, Rev. J. Frank Jackson, H. H. Soule, J. I. McCormick, Mr. Kraham, Fred Bernard and Francis King.

—BUY W.S.S.—
GOT AWAY

Girls Placed in Detention Liberated

Through an Error. Two young girls who are supposed to be in detention are enjoying their liberty somewhere in Michigan. They are Treva Franklin and Effie Marvin who were picked up a week ago by Oscar Vibber, chief of police, and who after being examined by Dr. Carney, health officer, were taken to Ithaca and placed in detention, pending removal to a state institution for treatment.

Thursday a state official arrived to take charge of the two girls. He was sent to Ithaca after them by Vibber. He failed to get them, for the simple reason that they were no longer in detention in the detention rooms at the court house. In plain simple words they had been given their liberty between the time they had been taken to Ithaca and the time of the arrival of the state official.

Saturday Sheriff Bradford was in the city, and at this time told Vibber that he did not know who let the girls go, and that he didn't know that the girls were there until the state official arrived in Ithaca after them, according to an interview with Vibber Monday by a Record reporter.

Saturday evening Deputy Sheriff Clarence Wheeler was in the city and Vibber talked with him about the matter. Wheeler didn't know much about it either but thought that the woman in charge of the detention rooms might have let the girls go.

He also assured Vibber that everything that could be done to locate them again was being done.

It is now understood that the girls were given their liberty through an error by B. L. Case, county clerk, and when he found he had made an error promptly wrote the officials of this city and acknowledged his mistake, as any good official would.

It is known also that the state is looking around for the girls and as soon as they are located they will be picked up again and placed in detention by the state until such a time as they cease to be a menace to the public health.

—BUY W.S.S.—

Eat Victory bread. Buy it fresh from your grocer twice daily. 55-2-c

ALMA BOY KILLED ON BATTLE FIELD

Sixteen-Year-Old Lad Made His Supreme Sacrifice for His Country.

McLEAN IS ALMA'S FIRST

Lieut. Charles Dutt of this City Wounded in Action by the Huns.

The hand of grim death, which is stalking over the blood drenched battlefields of Europe, has reached forth its bloody dripping fingers and called to its own the first Alma man to fall on the battlefield, facing the scourge of the earth, the terrible Hun. Leslie McLean is the first Alma man called.

William McLean, a relative of the dead Alma boy, received the first word of his death on the field of battle. He was killed on July 20. His mother is now living at Midland.

The Alma Record this week is privileged to publish a letter from McLean, which was written by him just a few days before he made the supreme sacrifice for his country and humanity. The letter will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Word has also been received to the effect that Lieut. Charles Dutt has been severely wounded on the field. Dutt has been an Alma resident for years, and is a graduate of Alma high school. At the outbreak of the war this Alma lad entered a training camp and received a commission. He went to France early in the spring. He was in the front line commanding his men when a Hun bullet found its mark.

—BUY W.S.S.—
BLANKED

That's the Story of Game Between Republic and Torbensen Nines.

The Republic base ball team received a bad defeat Sunday at the hands of the Torbensen Axle company's nine at Cleveland, the score being 11 to 0.

The Republics were outclassed from start to finish, being outplayed in every department by the Buckeye nine. The Torbensen team was composed of a bunch of clouters that pounded the ball to all corners of the lot, while their hurler shoved over such sizzlers that the Republic batters were at his mercy at all stages of the game. A couple of scoring chances were offered the Republic, but hits were not forthcoming when mostly needed.

—BUY W.S.S.—

Circulation counts—we have it.

FIRST AT FRONT

Breckenridge Lad First Gratiot Man to Die on Firing Line.

The papers Tuesday carried a United States roll of honor list which contained 706 names, among them that of Sergeant Howard C. Wolverton of Breckenridge.

Wolverton thus became the first Gratiot county man to die on the firing line in France.

The Breckenridge lad, a former employee of the Republic Motor Truck company, enlisted here about a year ago in the cavalry, and was for some time stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont.

—BUY W.S.S.—

ALMA CHAUTAUQUA STARTS MONDAY

Ticket Sale by Local Branch of Red Cross is Reported as Being Very Good.

The Redpath Chautauqua, with its ever popular week of entertainment, will be in Alma from Monday, Aug. 12, until Monday, August 19, with a program which is said to be far superior to anything which the Redpath Chautauquas have had in the past. This means that Alma will have the best entertainments that she has ever had, this coming week.

The ticket sale, which has been in charge of the Red Cross ladies, has been proceeding very nicely and it is expected that before Monday the 750 tickets which must be sold to fill the contract will have been disposed of, together with an additional number, which will net a good commission for the Red Cross to further the great work of this organization.

There is little need of commenting on the program which will be given during the seven days of the big chautauqua. The lecturers, etc., are nationally known figures, some of whom have appeared here in the past. The dominating feature of the lectures to be given at the chautauqua will be regarding war and war work.

—BUY W.S.S.—

SEVEN ENLIST

Central Recruiting Office at Grand Rapids Reports Seven Enlistments.

The central recruiting office of the United States army at Grand Rapids reports the enlistment of seven Alma boys during the month of July.

The young men reported having enlisted from the Grand Rapids office are Howard J. Walker, Merlin L. Richards, Verne Welch, Thomas W. Deyarmond, Morris R. Aldrich, Arthur D. Dumas and Horace E. Cummings.

Three of these young men enlisted last week and left on Wednesday of that week for Grand Rapids for final examination before going into the service.

REPUBLIC ADDS TO DIRECTORATE

Special Meeting of Board of Directors Was Held at Cleveland Tuesday.

ADDED SEVEN NEW MEMBERS

Directors Added are Well Known Manufacturers and Men of Financial World.

On Tuesday of this week a special meeting of the board of directors of the Republic Motor Truck Company Incorporated, was held at Cleveland, and the number of directors was changed from eight to thirteen at that time.

The change in the directorate of the Alma company brings to the management of the concern some of the best known manufacturers and financial men of the country, a move which is deemed a good one for the future of the great truck factory which Alma boasts of, making it a still stronger institution than it has been in the past, strong as it has been.

The men selected to become directors were men who have been through the mill either in the manufacturing or financial world, and thus familiar with two important matters which are constantly kept in view with such enterprises as the Republic has grown to be.

The new directors chosen at the Cleveland meeting are James H. Foster of the Hydraulic Pressed Steel company of Cleveland; Robert L. Barr, a well known financial man of the east; A. Harris Ide, the rich Troy, N. Y., collar manufacturer; Attorney Henry J. Green of Urbana, Illinois, and Albert Rophbart. The old directors, eight in number, are F. W. Ruggles, C. G. Rhodes, T. A. Burt, G. W. Moore, L. Markle, Mr. Burr, J. O. Eaton and W. J. Baxter.

Following the meeting in Cleveland the entire party came to Alma, a special sleeper being attached to the Pere Marquette train out of Detroit to Alma, bringing the men to this city. Wednesday was spent in an inspection of the various plants of the company, which some of the new directors had never seen.

—BUY W.S.S.—

The city council has accepted the price submitted by the Central Michigan Light & Power company to furnish the current needed to pump the water for the city of Alma for the next five years, and instructed the mayor and clerk to sign a contract with this firm.

HOTTEST DAY

Tuesday Hottest Day in Twenty-seven Years it is Said.

With the thermometer at 103 degrees in the shade Tuesday Alma had the hottest day that it has experienced since 1881, and there was not a place in the city that could even be termed a cool spot.

A wind accompanied the rise in temperature, but it was one of the hottest breezes in the memory of the older residents of the city, and had little or no effect in cooling the air. Yesterday the city experienced another very hot day, altho the temperature did not reach the high point that it hit Tuesday.

A dry spell of nearly three weeks duration over this part of the country, coupled with the hot weather is causing a great amount of damage to the crops, which only an immediate rain will aid.

—BUY W.S.S.—
ROY PERRY INJURED

Word has been received by Mrs. Dell Perry of this city of an accident which occurred to her son, Roy, aboard a United States battle ship very recently. Perry fell into a hole and broke his right arm and left leg. Roy Perry is a graduate of the local high school and a former employee of The Alma Record. When the war broke out Perry left his position with The Record and enlisted in the navy.

—BUY W.S.S.—

MILITARY TRAINING AT ALMA COLLEGE

Men Over Eighteen to be Enlisted in Students' Army Training Corps

Alma college will have military training this coming year, and probably longer, if the great world struggle continues through another year. The men of the college who take the military training will come under the Students' Army Training corps, under the direction of the Committee on Education and Special Training of the War Department.

The men who take this course of military training must be eighteen years of age, and enlist. They will be provided with uniform and equipment and will be on a furlough status and will not receive pay. They will be subject to call of the president, for active service at any time in case of need. However, it is announced that it is the policy to keep these men in college, and the War Department will have the power to order such men to continue in college even after they reach the draft age, if the work they are doing is such that the needs of the service makes that course advisable.

It is also announced that in addition to the military training that these men receive in college they will go to a six weeks' training camp, where they will be given a rigid intensive training, at which time they will receive the pay of a private.

Men in the Students' Army Training corps, when reaching the draft age will fill out questionnaires, and being enlisted will be given a classification in class 5-D. It is understood that if dismissed from college they will cease to be members of this corps and the classification changed.

Bulletins which have been sent to all colleges press home the need of collegiate training at the present time. It points out the value of the college trained mind in making a leader, or commissioned officer, the need of highly trained minds in the various departments of the army and navy and of the great demand that there will be for highly trained specialists in the reconstruction period of the war.

President Crooks was unable to give much information in regard to the way the training will be taken up at Alma college this year, the details for the training not having been worked out as yet. Announcements will be made later in regard to the training the men will receive at the college this year.

—BUY W.S.S.—
CASTS VOTE

Mayor King Cast Ballot Tuesday Night When Council Tied on Vote.

Mayor Francis King got his first chance to vote upon a proposition before the council this week, when the matter up for a vote received the same number of ballots on both sides, of a motion.

The matter which was up for a vote was the attempted rescinding of a motion which had just been passed by the council. It had been voted to instruct the health officer, Dr. Carney, to employ the services of a competent social worker, provided that the school board would pay one-half of the cost, the city to pay not over \$50.00 a month as its half.

As soon as this was carried a motion was promptly made to rescind the action, and it split the council. This gave Mayor King the deciding vote and he cast his ballot against the rescinding, and as a result this city will probably soon have a competent social worker to handle such matters as may come under her jurisdiction.

—BUY W.S.S.—

Mr. and Mrs. Barton Young are enjoying a two weeks' vacation at Crystal Lake.

BIG LOSS FROM SHEPHERD FIRE

Isabella Village Threatened by Flames From Blaze Tuesday.

CALLED FOR ASSISTANCE

Alma and Mt. Pleasant Fire Departments Were Called to Aid in Quelling Flames.

The village of Shepherd was visited by a big fire Tuesday, which for a time threatened the village, and caused the authorities of the city to ask for aid from the Alma and the Mt. Pleasant fire departments, both of which answered the appeal which was made and sent their departments to the scene.

The fire started in the large warehouse of the Dibble & Bent company, which was afire last Thursday night. At that time a portion of the warehouse was burned, and it is believed to have been set on fire by German sympathizers. It was thought that the fire had been completely extinguished, but sparks smoldered in the half burned hay for nearly a week and Tuesday afternoon burst forth in fury.

Within a few minutes the flames had leaped across the road and caught in the homes of Mrs. Lyons, a widow, and that of Ralph Armstrong. Armstrong was badly burned, while carrying furniture from his home.

With a high wind blowing from the west directly across the business section of the city, sparks were carried to various business blocks and houses and within a short time half a dozen fires were started. Then it was determined to send for assistance, which was rushed as rapidly as possible by the Alma and Mt. Pleasant departments. Among the various places which caught fire from sparks were the post office, Burdick's realty office, the Jason Struble house and a number of residences. Bucket brigades were quickly formed and water thrown upon the buildings which had caught fire and these flames were extinguished.

By the time that the Alma and Mt. Pleasant departments reached Shepherd the water supply was running low so that they could be of very little assistance, and the buildings originally on fire burned to the ground. It was reported at the time that there was a large quantity of hay, straw and oats in the warehouse which burned. A large pile of coal near the Ann Arbor railroad tracks, also caught afire and burned.

It is very probable that the loss from the fire will reach into the thousands, reports being to the effect that the total loss will be close to \$50,000.

—BUY W.S.S.—
POLICE REPORT

Ten Arrests During July According to the Police Report.

The police report for the month of July submitted to the city council Tuesday evening by Oscar Vibber, shows ten arrests during the month, seven of which were made under city ordinances and three under the state law. All paid fines.

One of the most interesting features of the police report is the report of children picked up by officers after the curfew at 9:00 o'clock, and shows how the new ordinance will work out.

During the month, the first in which the ordinance has been in force, twenty-seven children have been picked up for being out after 9:00 o'clock, a small number compared with those who formerly were on the streets at a much later hour. Some of these children were on their way home when picked up by the officers, being found just a few minutes after the whistle blew.

—BUY W.S.S.—
SHOULD PAY PLEDGES

The Gratiot County Y. M. C. A. has been asked by the state office to pay the balance of its War Pledge, and as a result the Y. M. C. A. in turn is asking those who have unpaid pledges to please call at the First State bank and pay them at once. The Y. M. C. A. needs the money if it is to do the work for the boys at the front.

Solicitors are getting around and calling on some of those who have unpaid pledges, but the residents here are asked to beat the solicitors to it and save work on their part by making payment of these pledges at once to the bank.

—BUY W.S.S.—
CONTINUE BUSINESS

Last week in mentioning that the Twin Cities Realty company had moved its offices to the Opera House block where Banall & Sullivan were located, an error was made in saying that these men would quit the real estate business. Both Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Banall will continue in this business in the future. Mr. Banall will conduct an office from his home, while Mr. Sullivan will be located temporarily at least in the Pollasky block.

—BUY W.S.S.—

Eat Victory bread. Buy it fresh from your grocer twice daily. 55-2-c

UNCLE SAM'S PARTNER



(Courtesy of Life and Charles Dana Gibson.)

Planting home gardens, producing more food, and saving food are all war-time efforts of this government in which the women of America have co-operated loyally. We are all in the home army; the home army here must help the fighting forces and home armies over there; 120 million Allies must eat.